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4-H Club Work, 1932

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4-H CLUB WORK, 1932

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Contents

	Page		Page
Progress in 1932.....	1	Tours.....	4
Local leadership.....	1	Development of home resources...	5
Leading activities and results..	2	Cost accounts and records.....	5
Gardening.....	2	Economic value of 4-H club work.	6
Poultry raising; dairying.....	3	Programs for older 4-H club	
Livestock raising.....	3	members.....	6
Canning and food preparation..	3	Recreation.....	7
Clothing work.....	4	Community activities.....	7
Home improvement.....	4	Summary.....	7

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Progress in 1932

An appreciable growth in 4-H club work throughout the country is recorded for 1932. A total of 925,612 4-H club members - 381,673 boys and 544,039 girls - carried on demonstrations in agriculture and home making, including projects in livestock, poultry, crops, gardening, foods, clothing, and room improvement. This enrollment of club members shows an increase of 35,238 over 1931, or 3.96 percent.

The 4-H club programs in the several States were guided by 2,258 county agricultural agents and 1,263 home demonstration agents, who divided their time between adult and junior extension work; and by 178 county club agents, who devoted full time to 4-H club work. In addition to these employed extension workers, more than 100,000 leaders served voluntarily without remuneration, helping to forward 4-H club work.

The unit of organization is the individual club in the rural community. There were 57,922 of these clubs carrying a definite program in 1932.

Local Leadership

A vital element in the success of 4-H club programs is the leadership of local men and women. With few exceptions, club work is not started in a community unless there is an adult who is willing to assume responsibility as local adviser. Of the 105,254 volunteer local leaders who served during 1932, some were teachers, some were older club members, and many were farm men and women. These local leaders gave generously of time and effort to promote a program of service to rural people.

Many leaders stated that the satisfaction gained from working with youth more than repaid them for the time and work which they put into club activities.

A member of the North Dakota Legislature, a livestock breeder and veterinarian, has been for some time a local leader of a 4-H club. He said recently: "When we are gone folks won't remember long the work we did in breeding livestock or in doctoring horses, but the work we do in directing boys and girls and in helping them to make the world better will stand as a monument to our memory for generations to come."

The State club leader of Maine reported that the boys' 4-H club of Scarborough has been a real force in the community under the leadership of one man for 20 years. This leader, Frank H. B. Heald, who is a school superintendent, recently expressed his views of club work as follows: "I like to keep in touch with young people, to see them grow and develop. I like the reality expressed in 4-H club work, for boys and girls actually achieve and make progress by working on concrete projects. We have made progress in inducing club members to 'finish the job'. I know of nothing more essential in character building than the development of a willingness to complete a task once it is started."

Leading Activities and Results

The 925,612 boys and girls who were enrolled in club work in 1932 used their farms and homes as the workshops where they carried on their practical demonstrations in livestock, poultry, dairying, gardening, sewing, bread making, and canning. These young people produced during the year 1,503,764 bushels of potatoes, 15,295,898 pounds of cotton, and 2,926,191 bushels of corn in addition to other cereals such as wheat, oats, rye, and barley. Their livestock work included 49,852 dairy cattle, 21,596 beef cattle, 34,912 sheep, and 126,000 pigs. There were 2,543,051 birds in 4-H poultry flocks. In addition to this work in crops and livestock, 4-H club members carried on other activities on the farm such as rural engineering, forestry, home and market gardening, growing of small fruits, improvement of home grounds, bee keeping, and rabbit raising.

It was noticeable during 1932 that there was an increased interest in projects that did not require much outlay of money such as vegetable growing, preserving of food, and remodeling of clothing. Records show that 4-H club members used good judgment in the selection of projects that not only taught valuable lessons but had an economic foundation.

The 4-H club members in all sections of the country took an active part in the live-at-home program. They made a substantial contribution to the family pocketbook through gardening and food preservation.

Gardening

Club members and leaders agreed that gardening and canning were good ways in which club members could help their families to reduce cash outlay.

The 1932 gardening accomplishments of both boys and girls were outstanding. More than 104,500 members of 4-H clubs carried on home-garden work, and grew a wide variety of vegetables for canning and storing.

Food preservation continued as a part of the live-at-home program. Club members numbering 108,966 were enrolled in this activity, and canned 6,106,530 jars of fruits, vegetables, and meats for the family food supply. A significant phase of the gardening and canning work is that club members learn to plant and can according to the health needs of the family. The record of a Virginia 4-H girl, Cordelia Wetzel, shows how this is done. After studying the food needs of the Wetzel family of 10 members, Cordelia worked out their food budget in detail. The garden was planted to meet their needs. Here is her canning budget for vegetables and fruits: Tomatoes, 280 quarts; greens, 84; other vegetables, 112; fruits, 456; a total of 932 containers.

In addition to supplying the food needs of the family and reducing the cash outlay, many 4-H gardens were the means of adding dollars to the farm income. A garden-club girl in Mississippi grew 21 vegetables in her garden, using \$81 worth at home and selling \$23 worth. An Arkansas girl

reported that her garden products, sold and used at home, had a total value of \$162.40. A Virginia club girl's garden record shows that she sold more than \$200 worth of vegetables in addition to supplying her family of six with all vegetables needed. Other records show that many 4-H gardens ranged in value from \$75 to \$150.

The 4-H Saturday market in a Fairmont, W. Va., department store was a successful cooperative club activity. More than \$1,200 worth of garden stuff and other farm and home products were sold at this market during 1931 and 1932.

Poultry raising; dairying

4-H poultry and dairy work also contributed to the live-at-home program. Arkansas reported that 4-H poultry flocks included more than 85,000 birds valued at \$51,000. Eggs used at home and sold were not included in this amount. One Arkansas club boy bought a pure-bred Jersey calf for \$125 in 1929. This cow produced more than 8,000 pounds of milk in 1932 which retailed at 10 cents a quart. This cow is paying the boy's way through high school.

Livestock raising

Sheep-club members in Utah marketed their wool by having it made into blankets, which sold at a price that paid the club members approximately 10 cents a pound for wool.

Reports show that as in former years, 4-H club earnings are helping many boys and girls to have high-school and college training. A North Dakota 4-H club girl was able to finish her fourth year of high school because of her brother's pigs. Family funds were low, but the 4-H club boy in the family had, by 4 years of club work, built up a herd of 22 head of hogs. During 1932 the income from the sale of part of this herd netted \$268. Of this amount \$176 was used to defray his sister's high-school expenses.

A Connecticut 4-H club boy reported how his turkey project helped to finance his college education. A sophomore at the Connecticut Agricultural College in 1932, he had already carried on his 4-H turkey project for 6 years. Starting with six turkeys in 1927, he has increased his flock each year. During this period he made a labor return of \$3,142.

Canning and food preparation

In addition to the work in canning, many 4-H club girls helped to keep down food expenses of the family through meal planning and food preparation. Over 108,000 of these girls applied their training in food clubs to preparing family meals, and planning these meals so that they would fill health needs and yet be in keeping with lowered family incomes. They studied food costs and learned to make good use of home-grown products. In all foods and nutrition work emphasis was placed on healthful living, and in this phase of 4-H club work the Health "H" was emphasized. The slogan of nutrition projects in many States was "The 4-H club girl, her own best exhibit."

Clothing work

As in former years, the largest enrollment in 4-H club home-making activities was in clothing. More than 233,300 club members took an active part in this work, making and remodeling garments for themselves and other members of the family. Club girls learned new ways of using old materials, and developed a pride in creating becoming and suitable garments at small cost. During the adult home-makers' conference in Utah, five college girls, former 4-H club members, appeared before the women in dresses and suits made from their mothers', fathers', and brothers' clothes. The State club leader reported, "These girls had an attitude of pride as they gave the women cost details." Frequently girls in 4-H club work made cotton dresses worth from \$1 to \$1.50 from material that cost 30 cents. Many wool suits costing \$3 would have cost \$10 to \$14 if bought ready-made. Club girls in northern Rhode Island made 646 dresses, representing a saving of \$323.

North Dakota reports an estimated saving of approximately \$4,000 for clothing-club girls in that State. Feed bags were widely used for dresses. In Loudoun County, Va., one club of 12 girls gave a real lesson in thrift to the whole county by making their dresses of feed sacks. The total amount spent by the club for the 12 dresses was 85 cents. Not only was this a demonstration in economy, but also in the wise use of color, design, and ingenuity in using their material. As a result of the pictures of these dresses, and other information circulated regarding them many women asked for information on bleaching and dyeing feed sacks to use for clothing and house furnishings.

Home improvement

Many rural homes were made more attractive in 1952, because 62,069 girls added comfort and beauty to their homes at small cost through their 4-H club activities, in which they learned to refinish, repair, and remodel furniture, improve walls and floors, and make curtains, bedspreads, rag rugs, and accessories.

Efforts in improvement were not confined to the interiors of homes, for 4-H boys and girls numbering 43,651 took an active part in improving farm-home grounds. They took special interest in cleaning up the yard, growing flowers, and working out simple landscaping plans. They followed the "live-at-home" idea here by using native plants and shrubs.

Tours

Tours to visit the demonstrations of 4-H members are increasing in popularity. Ohio reports that on many tours, half of the group members were fathers of club boys. There was great interest in the high yields of corn, potatoes, and other crops grown by club members. For example, in one Illinois county the average yield of corn was approximately 43 bushels per acre, whereas the average yield of the boys' acre plots was 63.5 bushels. In Arkansas the 4-H club members' average yield per acre of Irish potatoes was 105.3 bushels as compared with 68 bushels for the State. From Maryland comes an example which shows the growing influence

of 4-H dairy-club work. The club leader reported: "It is estimated that there are 19,300 registered dairy cattle in Maryland. Approximately 15 percent of these are owned by 4-H club boys or by former club members.

Development of Home Resources

During 1932, when little money was available to finance club projects, club members showed considerable resourcefulness in constructing home-made equipment. For instance, two brothers, members of a poultry club in Connecticut, wanted a good, modern poultry house for their 300-day-old chicks, so they built one. The total cash outlay including the 300 chicks was \$23. Much of the lumber was cut from their own farm wood lot, and the boys made their own sawmill at a cash cost of less than \$5. They dismantled an old automobile, placed the saw on the end of the engine drive shaft, rigged up a crank and endless chain to draw the improvised carriage, and were thus equipped to set up as independent sawmill operators.

Another example of ingenuity was exhibited by members of a winning demonstration team in Knox County, Ind. In the demonstration "Pig equipment for the hog lot", the two boys constructed a pig rail, pig cradle, pig feeder, and apparatus for a warmer. These things were all made of old material about the home. The feeder consisted of a mower wheel laid flat and a barrel on the mower wheel wired fast.

In Montana, the extension agent of Phillips County in a report on the 4-H garden project, said: "The outstanding results obtained in this project were the unique systems of irrigation worked out by the boy and girl. Everett Arnott made an irrigation pump by taking two bicycle wheels, fixing one so that the lower part was in 6 inches of water and the other above the level of his garden. He put a crank on the upper wheel, and an improvised belt over both wheels. Tin gallon cans were fastened to the belt so that they were about 3 feet apart. These cans would pick up water and would then be lifted over the top wheel, thereby pouring irrigation water into a small ditch which irrigated his garden. The fact that this club member was able to overcome drought conditions is of more importance to him than all the other training he secured in his club work this year."

The same Montana report states that Eudell Horton was allowed only a limited amount of water from a well with which to irrigate her garden. To utilize this water to the best advantage she decided to try out the lath-tile system of irrigation. She made tiles by nailing laths together in such a way as to make hollow tiles. These were joined so that the joints were 1 foot apart, thus allowing the water to seep out of the tiles uniformly. The tiles were placed in ditches about 8 inches deep, level on the bottom, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, the length of the garden. A standpipe was provided for each length of tile through which water was supplied throughout the summer, and the garden was subirrigated. Vegetables were planted closely in this garden and good results were obtained.

Cost Accounts and Records

An important phase of club work is that the club members keep records and cost accounts on many projects. Thus they know their net profit from

the dairy calf, the beef animal, and the poultry flock after feed and other costs have been deducted. This experience in businesslike record keeping has been a factor in leading club members to keep individual accounts. For instance, 362 Maryland club girls, after becoming interested in their project records on costs of clothing, kept personal-expense accounts in 1932, so that they might use this knowledge as a guide in future planning of clothing expenditures.

Economic Value of 4-H Club Work

Several State club leaders have made an effort to estimate the economic value of 4-H club work to their States in 1932. West Virginia reports: "\$250,000 is a conservative estimate of 4-H club work for the year." The girls' club leader of Maryland states: "Older 4-H girls, in checking up their records and accounts, estimate 4-H club work as being a paying enterprise. One girl finds that club work during the past 8 years has brought her \$2,640 through savings and earnings from 4-H club projects. The average for the value of club work as figured by girls who have been in the work for 4 or more years, is \$350 per girl."

Arkansas reports as follows: "The total value of livestock and poultry production by club members who reported, added to the crops produced by club members, gives a total value of nearly a quarter of a million dollars, which for the most part can be considered additional wealth."

A report from Ohio states: "Value of products of more than 44,000 club members of this State used in the home or sold, is estimated at approximately \$535,000."

Reports from many States show that 4-H club work influences farming practices in the community. Colorado reports: "4-H livestock clubs have been an important factor in bringing to stockmen the value of producing yearlings for baby beef. Demand for baby beef has been the most fundamental livestock market change made in many years. 4-H club boys are directly responsible for bringing better hogs into several Colorado counties. This service alone has increased the earning capacity of farmers by thousands of dollars yearly. In 1926 in one Colorado county there were only two small flocks of pure-bred sheep. Four carloads of pure-bred ewes were shipped in as the result of 4-H club work. Today there is a substantial pure-bred sheep business with about 75 breeders."

Programs for Older 4-H Club Members

There was a decided trend throughout the country to develop club programs which would serve to meet the needs of older boys and girls. A story from California is typical of this effort: "An important development in Fresno County was an attempt to capitalize on results of club work for the last 12 years by organization of a group of young men over 21 who were former club members. This organization is known as the Junior Farm Bureau. A membership of approximately 100 is contemplated, the members to meet regularly each month at dinner and to have a program of agricultural discussion. Once each quarter a social meeting is held. The first year of existence of this Junior Farm Bureau seemed to confirm these observations:

(1) The county farm bureau as such, does not fully meet the needs socially or educationally of this group of young men. (2) There are potential agricultural leaders in this age group who, if gathered together, can be trained in organization and subject matter."

Illinois reports The Young Men's Forum which is similar in purpose. In Illinois, projects for older girls include home management with help on buying problems, accounts, and budgets.

Maryland reports five counties that now have older 4-H club members organized in alumni associations. These young people conducted study clubs and also helped to plan county rallies and camps. Many States reported that older club members were taking definite responsibilities in carrying on club activities.

Recreation

The live-at-home program extended to the recreation of 4-H club members and their families. With little money to spend for gasoline and the movies, club members developed their own entertainment. There were fewer banquets and more neighborhood parties. An Ohio county club agent reported: "Today I see tennis courts on farm-home grounds, barn floors used as basket-ball courts, ball games in the barn lot after supper until dark. After the games, in which the neighbors join, all enjoy the contents of the freezer of home-made ice cream and the cakes made by the girls. All these activities are promoting greater sociability and neighborliness in rural communities."

Several States held training schools for leaders in cooperation with the National Recreation Association. These delegates were trained in dramatics and in game leadership. Many State club leaders report that the entire 4-H program was enriched by these leaders, who brought back their experiences to local groups.

4-H encampments were another source of enrichment to the lives of 4-H club members. In 1932, 2,653 camps were held, with 242,113 boys and girls attending. Here the young people took part in a varied program including demonstrations, nature study, crafts, dramatics, and game leadership. Camp programs gave boys and girls an appreciation of many worth-while things not possible to obtain in regular club meetings. The 4-H camps are in reality training schools in sportsmanship, leadership, friendship, recreation, and cooperative living.

Community Activities

Reports show that members of 4-H clubs took an active part in community life in 1932, and rendered many services such as the following: Cooperated with Red Cross, contributed food and clothing to needy families, donated fruits and vegetables to hospitals, put on home-talent plays at community meetings, planted shrubbery around Grange halls, aided in beautifying church and school yards, and took charge of children at mothers' meetings.

Summary

In summarizing accomplishments of 4-H club work in 1932 it is evident that 925,612 boys and girls made a real economic contribution to the family living, in goods produced and in money saved and earned. They cooperated with other

club members in work and play. They took active part in community enterprises. They made the most of materials at hand, thus developing resourcefulness, ingenuity, and self-reliance. How these activities contributed to individual growth is well stated by an Illinois club girl who says: "Through 4-H club work we learn to lean on ourselves; we learn to be good losers as well as good winners; to win without boasting and to lose without whining; we learn better ways of doing home tasks, and a greater appreciation of farm life."
